

ASPIRA
Youth Congress

of
New Jersey

PRESENTS
3rd Annual Youth Conference
on

"LEADERSHIP & EDUCATION"
May 3, 1988
Princeton University



PROGRAM

11:00am *Master of Ceremony* *Carlos Merenda, President, ASPIRA, Youth Congress*

8:00am Registration *Marisol Ayres, Coordinator*
Third World Center Liberation Hall
(Coffee & Donuts)

9:00am *Welcome Remarks*
Woods Auditorium McCosh 10

Dr. Elias Nunez-Wernack
Chairperson
ASPIRA Inc. of New Jersey

Carl Wershefsky
Assistant to the President
Princeton University

Angela Gonzalez
Communication Chairperson
Chicano Circus

Edyson Lopez
President
Acción Panamericana Y Azteca

9:15am *Student Presentations - Lissette Valenzuela, Coordinator*

Patricia Rodriguez
Tomaso High School
EDUCATION

Gloria Perez
Perry High School
AIDS

Maria Torres
Dunbar High School
TEENAGE PREGNANCY

Alma Alvaro
Arts High School
STUDENT / PARENT RELATIONS

Marcy Perez
Woodrow Wilson High School
DHS(K) AIDS

9:45am *Keynote Speaker*

Assemblyman John Watson
Mercer County

10:00am

Overview

10:15am-11:00am

Panel Discussion 1

EDUCATION - McCosh Hall Room #1
AIDS - McCosh Hall Room #60

TEENAGE PREGNANCY - McCosh Hall Room #62
STUDENT/PARENT RELATIONS - McCosh Hall Room #64
DRUG ABUSE - McCosh Hall Room #4

11:30am-11:45am

Panel Discussion 2

EDUCATION - McCosh Hall Room #2
AIDS - McCosh Hall Room #60

TEENAGE PREGNANCY - McCosh Hall Room #62
STUDENT/PARENT RELATIONS - McCosh Hall Room #64
DRUG ABUSE - McCosh Hall Room #4

1:00pm-1:00pm

Press Conference - Larveler Hall, Coordinator
Third World Center Library Hall

Jess Alice Ranson - Trenton High School

Judith Meador - Summit High School

Arifah Lopez - Barringer High School

Rebeca Valenzuela - Woodrow Wilson High School

Zeta Valenzuela - Woodrow Wilson High School

2:00pm-2:45pm

Reception
Third World Center

2:45pm

Departure

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Princeton University (Co-Sponsors)

Third World Center

Action Panamericana Y Amigos

Chinese Caucus

Mr. Carl Wambsgans (Aide to the President)

Mr. Myrl Whitworth (Associate Dean of Student Affairs)

ALL ASPIRANTES

The ASPIRA Young Congress and ASPIRA INC. of New Jersey would like to extend special thanks to the Princeton Student Mathematics and Chemistry Panel members for their time and contributions to this Conference.

TOPIC: EDUCATION
Panel Participants:

Marie Medina
Academic Advisor
H.O.P. Program
Rutgers University

Irene Almyra
Member
Panel of Education
Newark, N.J.

MODERATOR - Miles Cohen '87

Jan O'Connor
Vice-Chair
Dr. Horace School
Newark, N.J.

Robert Rosato
Principal
Middle School
Montclair, N.J.

TOPIC: AIDS
Panel Participants:

Mark Marano
President
Gay Alliance
Brooklyn, N.Y.
New York City, N.Y.

Carney Lopez
Executive Director
Gay Alliance
Montclair, N.J.

MODERATOR - Franklin Cox '87

Paula Lopuck
Public Relations
United Federation
Trenton, N.J.

Charles Givans
President Emeritus
Gayford Foundation

TOPIC: TEENAGE PREGNANCY
Panel Participants:

Mark Ellen Mass
Coordinator
Bergen County Network
Abstinence Program

Maria-Cris
Diaz
Abstinence Planning
Union League
Hudson County

MODERATORS - Denise Roman '87 & Luis Arango '87

Shane Crotty
Middle Educator
Schools Program
Planned Parenthood
Trenton, N.J.

Revere Lofstrom
Executive Director
Planned Parenthood
Trenton, N.J.

TOPIC: STUDENT/PARENT RELATIONS
Panel Participants:

David Gammie
Administrator
La Cienega De San Pedro
Montclair, N.J.

Dr. David Akster
Professor
Seton Hall University

MODERATORS - Linda Leonard '87 & Carmen Toms '87

Alma Ayo
Coordinator
Bergen County College

Tamara Ovanes, M.D.
(Ob/Gyn)
Obstetrics Services
Montclair, N.J.

TOPIC: DRUG ABUSE
Panel Participants:

Frankie Rosario
Abstinence Division
Coordinator
PROJECTS
Elizabeth, N.J.

Patricia Carlson
Coordinator
H.O.P.
Newark, N.J.

MODERATOR - Eric Rosinger '87

J. Richard Soto
Chief Agency Officer
Health Office
Hudson County

Linda Mihaj
Executive Director
Cancer Stage
Princeton, N.J.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR ASPIRA INC. OF NEW JERSEY

Awards Night Ceremony
June 10, 1988
Rutgers College
Rutgers University
New Brunswick

Statewide Puerto Rican Parade
July 1988
Newark

Contact: Jim Laughlin
(201) 443-8280

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASPIRA'S Third Annual Youth Conference

The ASPIRA Youth Congress will be holding its third annual youth conference at Princeton University on May 3rd, 1986. The purpose of this event is to raise questions and discuss issues affecting Hispanic/Minority students today. The uniqueness of this conference in relation to others is the fact that it has been organized, and will be overseen by ASPIRA students from both the junior and high school levels.

The topics to be discussed that day include the following: AIDS, Teenage Pregnancy, Drug Abuse, Education, and Student/Parent Relations. Students will hold presentations addressing those topics, and guest Panel Members will conduct discussion groups. We are expecting approximately 300 students from areas such as Newark, Camden, Trenton, Paterson, and Jersey City. Our invited keynote speaker for the day will be Assemblyman John Watson from Mercer County. In addition we will hold a press conference from 1:00pm to 1:45pm at the Third World Center Liberation Hall, 86 Olden Street, Princeton University. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

ASPIRA INC. OF NEW JERSEY'S
YOUTH CONGRESS

FACING THE FACTS

General:

- The Hispanic population in the United States is increasing at a rate six times faster than that of the nation as a whole; by the year 2000 it is predicted that Hispanics will constitute the largest minority group. (U.S. Bureau of the Census, April 1988)
- The 20 million Hispanics in the United States represent the fifth largest Hispanic population in the world, with more buying power than all 73 million people in Mexico. (U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce)
- Hispanics in the work force receive the lowest wages of any major group in the labor market, with Hispanic women reporting the lowest wages. (U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the U.S., 1988)
- Two out of every five Hispanic children lived in poverty in 1985, the highest poverty rate ever recorded for Hispanic children. This represents nearly 40% (3.6 million) of all Hispanic children under age 18. (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 1988)
- In 1983, 30% of the Mexican-American population had no health insurance compared to 9% for white non-Hispanics and 13% for the total U.S. population. In addition, approximately 25% of Black non-Hispanics, Cuban Americans, and Puerto Ricans were uninsured. (Frawley and Ross, 1988)

Education:

- The single most important barrier to success in the labor market for Hispanics is their low level of educational attainment. Only 50.1% of Hispanics complete four or more years of high school compared to 77.3% of the total population. (U.S. Bureau of the Census, August 1987)
- From 1968 to 1984, white enrollment in public schools declined by 15% percent; Black enrollment remained steady; and Hispanic enrollment increased 79% percent. (National Council of La Raza)
- The dropout rate for Hispanics is as much as three times higher than for whites (non-Hispanic) and one and one half times higher than for Blacks. (National Commission for Employment Policy and National Council of La Raza, 1986)

-In 1986, only 4% of Hispanics had completed four years of college or more compared with 20% for non-Hispanics.

-More Hispanic youngsters drop out of school than others, and they also drop out earlier than others: 40% of Hispanic dropouts leave high school before the spring semester of their sophomore year. (Hispanic Policy Development Project, 1984)

-College faculties are 93% white, 2.3% Black, 1.2% Hispanic. (Chronicle of Higher Education, Dec. 10, 1986)

AIDS:

-Nationwide, Hispanics and Blacks account for 34 percent of all pediatric AIDS cases. (55% percent for Black and 34% percent Hispanic)

-Though Hispanics make up about 7% of the U.S. population, they account for 14% of the reported AIDS cases. (Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, 1987)

-As of 1986, New Jersey has the second largest number of children related AIDS cases in the Nation. (New Jersey State Department of Health 1986)

Teenage Pregnancy:

-The United States has the highest adolescent birth rate of any industrialized nation. (The American Public Welfare Association and The National Council of State Family Service Administrators, 1986)

-One half million children are born each year to teenagers in this country. (same as above)

-44 percent of unmarried teenagers keep and raise their children. (same as above)

-Infants born to teenage mothers will cost taxpayers \$6.4 billion by the time they become adults; \$3.4 million could be saved had the mothers waited until they were 25 to give birth. (Senate on Education and Labor Committee, 1986)

-Almost one sixth of all U.S. births are to teenage women. (March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation 1986)

-Two out of three pregnant teenagers drop out of school. (March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation 1986)

Drugs/Substance Abuse

-In Detroit, 103 youngsters, aged 14 or under, were shot in the first four months of this year in gang and drug wars, nearly all by other children. (American Enterprise Institute 1987)

-Homicide (murder) is now the leading cause of death for inner city youth. (American Enterprise Institute 1987)